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As we proceed eastward from L. I., we find that there are a few of these same plants growing on soil of Tertiary age in the southern parts of the Eastern States; and it would seem that these species have a tendency to follow the course of the two more recent geological formations, throughout their whole extent along the Atlantic coast. Another fact which stands out prominently in this connection, is that not a single one of the above-mentioned plants, growing, as we have seen, just along the edge of the mantle of Glacial Drift is native of Europe; that is, they belong to a true American flora, which had its origin in the southern part of the continent. In contrast to which fact, we have another one, equally prominent, and that is, that of the species of plants growing on the material brought down by the ice sheet, about one-third are common to northern Europe and America, thus pointing to a common origin of each in the territory now occupied by the ice and snow of the Arctic regions.

N. L. BRITTON.

§ 61. **Teratology.**—*Lilium candidum* often has the uppermost flower 5-merous; all that I have noticed this year were so. I have seen 6-merous *Sarracenia purpurea*, and 4-merous *Tigridia*—the large cultivated species, (*Pavonia*?).

D. C. E.

§ 62. **Botanical News.**—Trimen's *Journal of Botany* for June contains:—A Review of the British Characeae (2 plates), continued, by H. and J. Groves; Remarks on Botanical Nomenclature, by B. Daydon Jackson; Botany of the British Polar Expedition of 1876-7, by H. C. Hart; Wilhelm Philip Schimper, by W. Carruthers.

The *Botanical Gazette* for June contains the following notes:—Vitality of the Seeds of Serotinous Cones, and *Fraxinus quadrangulata* hermaphrodite, by G. Englemann; *Notulae exiguae*, by A. Gray; *Platanthera bracteata*, and Double *Thalictrum anemonoides*, by T. Meehan; *Cobaea scandens* proterandrous, by W. W. Bailey; Notes on certain Silkweeds, by Edward L. Greene; Notes from Florida, by A. H. Curtiss; A Natural Botanic Garden, by J. M. Coulter; Some Plants of Franklin County, Ky., by R. H. Wildberger; and Notes from Illinois, by H. L. Boltwood.

The *Gardeners' Chronicle* states that at the meeting of the Linnean Society on June 3, a paper was read by Mr. George Murray "On the Application of the Results of Pringsheim's Recent Researches on Chlorophyll to the Life of the Lichen." Summarizing the results of Pringsheim's labours, the author considered the suggestion of Dr. Vines that, by the aid of an artificial chlorophyll screen, the protoplasm of fungi might be excited to the decomposition of carbonic acid, and contended that this proposed experiment is proceeding naturally in lichens. He pointed out that in these organisms we have the fungal tissues in the body of the thallus, and the chlorophyll screen in the gonidia; and that light traversing the chlorophyll-containing gonidia—often occurring as a dense layer—excites in the fungal tissues the decomposition of carbonic acid. In evidence he adduced the plentiful occurrence in the fungal hyphae of starch, or rather lichenin—a substance of the same chemical composition as starch $C_{12}H_{10}O_{10}$.